

## OCTOBER 2004

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## OPEN HOUSE

### VISIT YOUR LOCAL FIRE STATION

CELEBRATE NATIONAL FIRE Prevention Week on

**Saturday, October 9, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.** Activities,

demonstrations and tours will be featured along with free t-shirts and temporary tattoos for kids. Fire trucks, Police squad cars and Public Works equipment will also be on display. For more information, call 952-881-4062.

Station No.	Address
1	10 W. 95th St.
2	10601 Xerxes Ave. So.
3	2050 E. 86th St.
4	4201 W. 84th St.
5	10540 Bush Lake Rd.
6	8601 Lakeview Rd.

## YOU'RE INVITED

### FALL DANCE

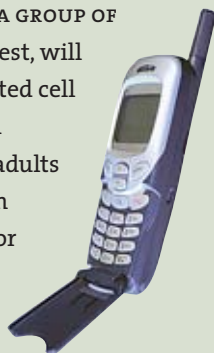
THE SENIOR PROGRAM'S ANNUAL FALL dance will be held **Thursday, October 14, from 7 - 9 p.m.** at the Marian Knights of Columbus Hall, 1114 American Boulevard West. Cost is a \$3 donation, payable at the door. For more information, call 952-563-4948; 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

## WANTED:

### YOUR OLD CELL PHONE

TELECOM PIONEERS, A GROUP OF volunteers from Qwest, will refurbish your donated cell phone to make it 911 accessible for older adults and individuals with medical conditions or disabilities. Drop off cell phones in working order, including the wall chargers, at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. Cell phones will be distributed in mid-November.

Bloomington residents who do not own cell phones, and are ages 55 or older or have medical conditions or disabilities, are eligible to register for free cell phones refurbished to access 911 exclusively. Individuals who receive cell phones must attend a brief orientation and distribution meeting. For more information, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY.



## THE GREAT OUTDOORS VISITS TO AREA PARKS GROWING

WHETHER IT'S SWIMMING, BIKING, WALKING OR PICNICKING, PEOPLE are headed to the parks for their favorite pastime. According to a Metropolitan Council study, Twin Cities area's regional parks are more popular than ever. The study reports that visits to the 73 regional parks and trails in the seven metropolitan counties reached

an estimated 30.5 million in 2003, up 1.5 percent from the previous year and 28 percent from 1995.

Bloomington is home to the third most popular regional park reserve.

See left. Hyland/Bush/Anderson Lake Park Reserve attracted an estimated 773,000 visitors in 2003. Walking is the most popular activity, accounting for 35 percent of visits to regional parks.

For more on parks and trails, visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keyword: Parks, keywords: Walking trails.



## NEXT STOP: BLOOMINGTON LIGHT RAIL RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

FROM START TO FINISH THE TRACKS HAVE BEEN LAID, AND CREWS ARE NOW testing the trains, signals and communications as construction of the Hiawatha Light Rail Line moves into the home stretch. Two of the Twin Cities most popular destinations – Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America – will be connected by year's end.

The \$715 million dollar light rail project broke ground in January 2001 and began operation between downtown Minneapolis and Fort Snelling at the end of June. Ridership has exceeded expectations, nearly doubling projections in July.

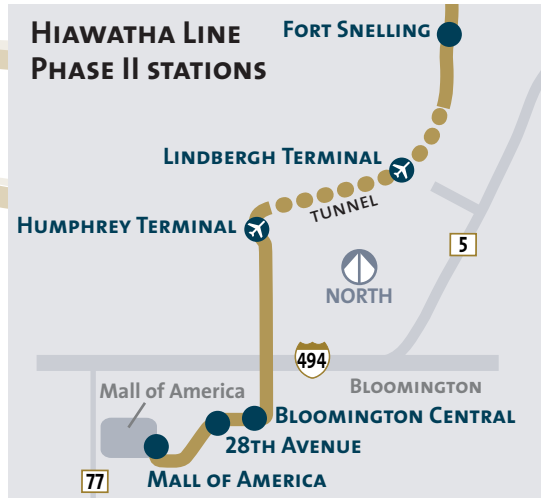
Bloomington Public Works Director Charles Honchell said there are benefits to having the new transit system in Bloomington. He said that light rail will provide an alternative transportation for residents to get to and from downtown Minneapolis for work, entertainment or to attend sporting events.

"Light rail transit can also stimulate development in the City's Airport South area," Honchell said. "New development will bring future tax revenues to Bloomington as well as create new jobs."

The Hiawatha Light Rail Project Office has predicted that corridor

development potential over the next 16 years could add 7,150 new housing units, more than 19 million square feet of new commercial development and more than 67,000 new jobs.

In fact, light rail has already spurred a new transit-oriented development along one of Bloomington's three light rail stations. The proposal by McGough Development includes 1,100 residential units, a 400-room hotel and conference center, office and retail uses, pedestrian and bicycle routes, and central park. The \$700 million project centers around Bloomington Central Station and is to be built in several phases over a seven-year period. Construction may begin this fall.



The Hiawatha Light Rail Line is the first step to potential alternative lines in the metropolitan area and beyond. Ultimately, the Hiawatha Line may link to a proposed commuter line that would extend as far as St. Cloud and to another light rail line to downtown St. Paul.

For more information, visit [www.hiawatha-lrt.org](http://www.hiawatha-lrt.org).



Bloomington 28th Avenue Station

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD  
BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027

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